



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina
www.bethanypreschurch.org
www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

April 14, 2024 – 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Easter



"No Loitering," Jason Hickey

All the people saw him walking and praising God. They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him. Acts 3:9-10 (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here! Parts of today's liturgy are from Ruth Burgess, Fire and Bread: Resources for Easter Day to Trinity Sunday, (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2006), and LiturgyLink, <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

TRINITY CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Rise and Rejoice*

FRANKLIN RITTER

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #466:** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

CHARLES WESLEY

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!

Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

*OPENING SENTENCES

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

What can bring us happiness?
The love of God among us

What can bring us happiness?
The justice of God around us

What can bring us happiness?
The breath of God within us

Open our minds to the scriptures
Open our eyes to Jesus in our midst

Let us worship our God.

GATHERING PRAYER

"PRAYERS OF THE HEART," CHRIS POLHILL

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the dull confusion of my mind.
Hear the tears I will not shed,
the grief I hide in busyness,
and bring your resurrection love
weaving new life.

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the words of foolish boasting.
Hear the doubts within my soul,
dark denials freezing action,
and shine your resurrection light
revealing new life.

Risen Christ,
hear the prayer of my heart
not the fear I leave behind.
Hear the longing for a fairer
world,
for God's justice and compassion,
and bring your resurrection power
enabling new life. **Amen.**

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

"HEARTS BURN," NATHAN WILLIAMS

Risen Christ,
you opened the scriptures to your disciples
and made their hearts burn within them.
Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts,
so we might recognize you once again
in these words of scripture,
by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MARK 6:53-56

PEW BIBLE, 1224

ACTS 3:1-10

PEW BIBLE, 1326

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

AN OFFERING OF OUR PLEDGES

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY #593:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

W.W. WALFORD

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Father's throne
make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempter's snare
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for thy return!
With such I hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy wings shall my petition bear
to him whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his word, and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care,
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

"RUNNING DOWN THE STREET," THOM SHUMAN

We know how easy it is to trick ourselves into believing that every thought is pure, every act is just, every choice is correct. But if we want to be God's children, to grow in hope,

to walk in Light, we must admit our mistakes, so we may open ourselves to the healing mercy of God's love. Join me, please, as we pray together, saying,

Emptier of tombs, we find ourselves running down the street after lies, rather than walking with you. We find it easy to love other people, as long as they don't annoy or bother us. We hunger for love and search for affirmation, yet find it difficult to let others love us for who we are.

Forgive us, Compassionate Heart.

You listen to the whispers of our hearts, and then sing of the promises of hope.

You grace us with peace, so our hearts can rest in you. You continue to transform us into Easter people, siblings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

silence

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Not everything has been revealed to us, but this we do know:
as God's children, we are blessed, we are loved, we are forgiven.

Our lives have been transformed by the abundant mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE: *He is Lord*

He is Lord. He is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *God Exalted Him*

TOM FETTE/LINDA LEE JOHNSON

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Sermon: *"Being Seen"*

REV. PHILLIPS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

We affirm our faith in worship as a response to the hearing of the Word of God proclaimed. Our affirmations of faith often come from the historic creeds and confessions of our denomination's Book of Confessions. If you'd like to learn more about our creeds and confessions, we have a video series "Know Your Confessions" by Pastor Jon that you can find on our YouTube page (direct shortened link here - <http://tiny.cc/z62qxz>)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of the saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

***CLOSING HYMN #298:** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

FREDRICK W. FABER

There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

***SENDING**

"OPENING AND CLOSING RESPONSES FOR EASTERTIDE," RUTH BURGESS

Love of God
Grow in us

Tears of God
Weep in us

Fire of God
Refine us

Beauty of God
Caress us

Laughter of God
Dance in us

Story of God
Run deep in us

Justice of God
Define us

Mystery of God
Bless us

POSTLUDE: *Everlasting Victory*

HUMPHREY TURNER

** Please stand in body or spirit.*



Our Faith Community @ Work

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sundays April 14 and 21st PNC Informational Meeting - following church

Do you have questions about the upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee? Are you interested in serving but aren't quite sure what you might be getting into? Would you like to know more about the process? If so, then please join us in the Evie C. Marshall Room following service this Sunday and next as Pastor Jon and friends discuss how we will elect the PNC, what the PNC is, what they will be doing, and what sort of a commitment is involved. Everyone with questions is encouraged to attend.

Sundays April 28th Called Congregational Meeting – following church in the Sanctuary

The Session of Bethany Presbyterian Church is calling a Congregational Meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee and to introduce the Mission Study to the congregation. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. All active members of the congregation in attendance will be able to vote.

Tuesday, April 16th Alamance Co. Mobile Library

The Alamance County Public Libraries mobile library will be in the church parking lot 10:30 – 11:30. Please stop by and “check-out” this wonderful service the library has to share

Yard Sale Coming – Details to be announced

Katie & Lexie Glenn Scholarship Fund Application

Thanks to the generosity of Katie and Lexie Glenn, deceased members of Bethany Presbyterian church, a bequest was left to the church for a scholarship fund. Since 1988, Bethany has offered scholarships to students planning to further their education beyond high school. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide financial assistance to qualified students who have demonstrated that their financial need and resources are such that they can benefit from a scholarship award. The funds can only be used for pursuing a course of study at a level above that of high school.

Please note that **the deadline for applying for a scholarship is April 28, 2024 - although the sooner applications can be submitted, the better.** Application forms may be obtained in the church office. Please see Glenn Patterson if you have any questions.

S.A.F.E. (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment)

S.A.F.E.'s April donation request is for Canned Meats and the donation request for May is Peanut and Jelly. If you have extra plastic and paper bags, please consider donating them.

This Week's Calendar:

Sunday, April 14th Third Sunday of Easter

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Following Church - PNC Informational Meeting – Evie C. Marshall Room

Wednesday, April 17th

6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, April 21st Fourth Sunday of Easter

11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Following Church - PNC Informational Meeting – Evie C. Marshall Room

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Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell

Kim Snyder

Tracey Troxler

Class of 2025:

Donna Mitchell-Ayers

Tina Patterson

Nancy Purcell

Class of 2026:

Chip Allen

Jean Payne

Ben Russell

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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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